May 7, 2020

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3030 - Support

Dear Chairwoman Friedman,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to support Assembly Bill (AB) 3030 by Assembly member Kalra. This bill would improve protection of California’s unparalleled biodiversity with creation of a state policy that sets a goal to protect at least 30 percent of the land base and waters in California and 30 percent of the ocean waters off the coast of California by 2030 (“30 by 30”), with objectives to protect biodiversity, increase climate resilience, promote collaboration, increase opportunities to sequester carbon through natural measures, and enhance public access for all people in the state, with a specific emphasis on increasing access for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

This bill comes at a critical time. Nature around the world is in a state of crisis, threatening our planet and humanity. The third most recent National Climate Assessment found that climate change is reducing the ability of ecosystems to provide clean water and regulate water flows, limiting the ability of nature to buffer communities from the impacts of natural disasters, changing migratory patterns, and threatening our food systems.

Further, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that approximately one million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction over the coming decades, as a result of human impacts. As a globally significant biodiversity hotspot with an exceptional concentration of endemic species, California has much to lose. At least 686 California species are at risk of extinction, and two-thirds of the state’s native plants will lose most of their range in the next 100 years.

Finally, as California’s health and economic systems are challenged by the COVID-19 global pandemic, which likely was spread from animals to humans as a result of habitat loss and overexploitation, the effect of the biodiversity crisis on people is more pronounced than ever.1

Fortunately, there is currently an opportunity for coordinated global action to safeguard nature and humanity’s future. As a first step toward solving the nature crisis, scientists have called upon countries to protect at least half of our planet as natural areas by 2050. International and national leaders are stepping down this goal with a commitment to protect at least 30 percent of the planet by 2030. Twenty-five counties have already expressed agreement with the 30 by 30 target, and leaders are working towards a goal of 100 countries by the time the United Nations meets at the Convention on Biological Diversity in early 2021.

California already is a leader in protecting biodiversity, with approximately twenty-two percent of its land area in protected status and a globally recognized network of marine protected areas (MPAs) covering roughly 16% of coastal state waters. With AB 3030, California can continue to lead the way towards meeting this important conservation goal and set an example for the rest of the country and the world.

For these reasons, we urge an “Aye” vote on AB 3030.

Sincerely,

Pamela Flick
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Mike Lynes
Policy Director
Audubon California

Ann Notthoff
Senior Western Advocacy Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

Marcela Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Founder and Director
Azul

Mariela Ruacho
Education & Communications Program Manager
California ReLeaf

Dan Gluesenkamp, Ph.D
Executive Director
California Native Plant Society

Dan Jacobson
State Director
Environment California

Melissa Romero
Legislative Affairs Manager
California League of Conservation Voters

Lauren Cullum
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California

Michael Wellborn
President
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Matthew S. Dietz, Ph.D
Lead Ecologist, Research Department
The Wilderness Society

Andria Ventura
Toxics Program Manager
Clean Water Action

John Buckley
Executive Director
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center

Brian Nowicki
California Climate Policy Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Darrel Jury
President
Friends of Plumas Wilderness

Bryan Hatchell
Desert Lands Organizer
Friends of the Inyo

Rico Mastrodonato
Government Affairs Director
The Trust for Public Land

Claire Schlotterbeck
Executive Director
Hills for Everyone

Debra Chase
CEO
Mountain Lion Foundation

Torri Estrada
Executive Director and Director of Policy
Carbon Cycle Institute
Craig Thomas
Director
The Fire Restoration Group

Howard Penn
Executive Director
Planning and Conservation League

Steve Evans
Wild Rivers Director
California Wilderness Coalition

Betsy Reifsnider
Sacramento Policy Associate
Mono Lake Committee

Laura Cunningham
California Director
Western Watersheds Project

Ron Sundergill
Senior Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Steve Evans
Wild Rivers Director
California Wilderness Coalition

Betsy Reifsnider
Sacramento Policy Associate
Mono Lake Committee

Laura Cunningham
California Director
Western Watersheds Project

Ron Sundergill
Senior Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Susan Jordan
Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Hilary Eisen
Policy Director
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Cam Tredennick
Executive Director
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Ellie M. Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

Dianna Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Anna Cummins
Co-Founder and Deputy Director
The 5 Gyres Institute

Christopher Chin
Executive Director
COARE

Leslie Mintz Tamminen
Director
Seventh Generation Advisors

Jay Ziegler
Director of External Affairs & Policy
The Nature Conservancy

Pablo Garza
Political Director of Ecosystems
Environmental Defense Fund

Emily Parker
Coastal and Marine Scientist
Heal the Bay

Morgan Patton
Executive Director
EAC of West Marin

Steven Frisch
President
Sierra Business Council

Geary Hund
Executive Director
Mojave Desert Land Trust

David Page
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance California

Lance Morgan, Ph.D
President & CEO
Marine Conservation Institute

Shannon Rake
Hope Spots Program Manager
Mission Blue

Jim Lindburg
Legislative Director
Friends Committee on Legislation of CA
Katherine O’Dea  
Executive Director  
Save Our Shores

Esperanza Vielma  
Executive Director  
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Nicole Kemeny  
President  
350 Silicon Valley

Elayne Stefanick  
California Program Director  
Conservation Lands Foundation

Shanna Edberg  
Director of Conservation Programs  
Hispanic Access Foundation

Vicki Nichols Goldstein  
Executive Director  
Inland Ocean Coalition

Paul Hughes  
Executive Director  
Forests Forever

Kurt Lieber  
President and Founder  
Ocean Defenders Alliance

Arnold Sowell, Jr.  
Executive Director  
NextGen California

Kristen Hislop  
Marine Conservation Program Director  
Environment Defense Center

Cody Hanford  
Executive Director  
Transition Habitat Conservancy

Tammy Martin  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Desert Mountains

Hallie Templeton  
Senior Oceans Campaigner  
Friends of the Earth-US

Geoff Shester, Ph.D.  
CA Campaign Director and Sr. Scientist  
Ocean